

It has come to my attention that there is a bill to squash local programming on XM radio. I have been a subscriber to XM radio for less than 6 months but I am strongly against this bill. After living in the Washington DC metro area for 25 years, I am tired of the horrible programming and excessive commercials on broadcast radio. Once I found out about XM, I bought a unit, and signed up. I was initially concerned about the sound quality, but XM was once considered high-tech too. Then along came FM (a vast improvement) and I believe that forward progress is possible with XM too. Regardless of the sound quality, I am STILL much more likely to listen to XM radio than broadcast. If I get in the car and it doesn't have XM, I turn off the radio. I'm tired of the commercials...why should a station have to advertise (for themselves) that they play 35 minutes of music an hour; it should be more like 55 minutes an hour. I also don't like the music industry setting the playlists on the stations that I listen to. I'm not naive enough to think that this doesn't happen on XM also, but with the diversity available on XM radio, I can always change the channel. And also, constant traffic and weather is wonderful; I'm so happy that XM has a channel for the Washington DC metro market. In all, I would like to voice my opinion that XM is a good thing...and that the whiny broadcasters need to either fix their own programming or shut up about it. Whining to dad (FCC) is only going to make it worse later. (and offer americans LESS choice)

Todd Howes